

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office action dated September 11, 2007.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 10, 14, 18 and 19 are independent claims. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein. Claims 11-13 depend from claim 10 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,825,943, hereinafter "Barry," in view of Official Notice.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and comprises the element of:

creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file, wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit of said document;

which is an element not disclosed in the cited combination of art.

Barry discloses a method for splitting a print job into several portions for parallel RIP processing. Barry further discloses the use of a "control file" that contains

parameters for managing the several portions for parallel RIP processes. The control file is updated to keep track of the various portions of the print job while they are being apportioned. However, this control file is not analogous to the page-independent index file of this claim.

The control file of Barry performs the function of splitting a print file for multiple concurrent RIP operations. Barry does not teach the use of a control file that changes the output print format in any way. Nor does Barry teach any form of document page format manipulation. The control file of Barry effectuates no changes that effect the output format or output characteristics of the print job.

Further, the control file of Barry is not an index file as is the Page-Independent Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention. Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the Page-Independent Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention from the non-analogous control file of Barry.

The examiner's Office Notice of well-known manipulation options is not related to the claim element currently being argued.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable in its present form. Claims 2 and 4-9 depend from claim 1 and comprise the limitations therein. The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Independent claim 10 has been amended and comprises the element of:

wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to a spool data file,
wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file
required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific units
corresponding to a page of a said document, wherein said first
independently-formatted page-specific unit is based on document-wide,
persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file, thereby producing a
manipulated PISF index file;

which, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, is not taught in the cited
combination of art. The rejection of independent claim 10 and claims 12 and 13, which
depend from claim 10, should therefore be withdrawn.

Independent claim 14 has been similarly amended and comprises the element of
“wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data file, wherein said
first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first
independently-formatted, page-specific unit derived from document-wide, persistent,
page formatting data in said spool data file.” This element is not disclosed, as argued
above in relation to independent claim 1, in the cited combination of art. The rejection of
independent claim 14 and claims 15-17, which depend from claim 14, should therefore be
withdrawn.

Independent claim 18 has been amended and comprises the element of
“formatting data in said spool data file into a page-independent spool file (PISF) index

file comprising a first link to said spool data file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first independently-formatted, page-specific unit.” This element is not disclosed, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, in the cited combination of art. Independent claim 18, as amended, is therefore allowable, and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 19 has been amended and comprises the element of:

creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file, wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit of said document;

which is an element not disclosed, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, in the cited combination of art. Independent claim 19, as amended, is therefore allowable, and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,825,943, hereinafter “Barry,” in view of the applicant’s admitted prior art in the background of the invention, hereinafter “background.”

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1, and claim 11 depends from independent claim 10.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and comprises the element of:

creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file, wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit of said document;

which is not disclosed in the cited combination of art.

Barry discloses a method for splitting a print job into several portions for parallel RIP processing. Barry further discloses the use of a "control file" that contains parameters for managing the several portions for parallel RIP processes. The control file is updated to keep track of the various portions of the print job while they are being apportioned. However, this control file is not analogous to the page-independent index file of this claim.

The control file of Barry performs the function of splitting a print file for multiple concurrent RIP operations. Barry does not teach the use of a control file that changes the output print format in any way. Nor does Barry teach any form of document page format manipulation. The control file of Barry effectuates no changes that effect the output format or output characteristics of the print job.

Further, the control file of Barry is not an index file as is the Page-Independent Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention.

Appl. No. 09/894,928
Amdt. dated December 11, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 11, 2007

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the Page-Independent Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention from the non-analogous control file of Barry.

The background merely recites page formatting options provided by some printing devices. The background cited by the examiner in combination with Barry does not disclose the above-listed elements of amended claim 1. Independent claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable in its present form, and thus claim 3 is allowable.

Independent claim 10 has been amended and comprises the element of:

wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to a spool data file,
wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file
required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific units
corresponding to a page of a said document, wherein said first
independently-formatted page-specific unit is based on document-wide,
persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file, thereby producing a
manipulated PISF index file;

which, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, is not taught in the cited combination of art. Therefore claim 10, and claim 11 by dependence on claim 10, are allowable in present form.

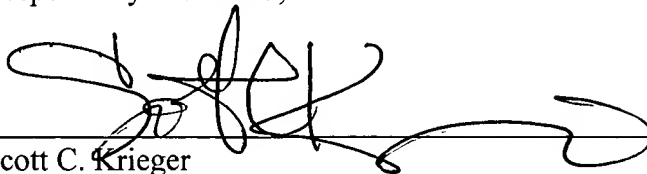
In light of the arguments above, all claims are considered to be novel, non-obvious and patentable in view of the cited art. The applicant respectfully requests that

Appl. No. 09/894,928
Amdt. dated December 11, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 11, 2007

the examiner reconsider the rejections of these claims. The examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney directly for any reason.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott C. Krieger', is written over a horizontal line.

Scott C. Krieger
Reg. No. 42,768
Tel. No.: (360) 828-0589